



Men Against Violence Against Women

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Dr. Russell Foote, CHAIRMAN. Donald Berment, SECRETARY. Desmond Persad, TREASURER.

Date: Mon/29/Feb/2016.

Our Ref.: IWD/16/opm

Your Ref: GAD: 3/1/20

Ms. Jacqueline Johnson,
Permanent Secretary (Ag.),
Gender Affairs Division,
Office of The Prime Minister

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO PARTNER ON CARE PACKAGES INITIATIVE 2016.

Dear Madame Permanent Secretary,

As is normal with MAVA W, we are very willing and able to partner with all and sundry in commemorating this important day on the International Calendar, March 8th annually.

We were on the Promenade last year up to 6 pm, displaying the work we have done over the last 30 years as men committed to fully valuing and appreciating all women. Consequently, this email is copied to some of our active members with the PDF invitations sent by the Gender Affairs Division of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Please note that we are most capable in providing educated, experienced and specialized training in Gender and Development to our adult and Youth Population.

We finance our efforts from our personal incomes as no annual subventions are available. In that regard I visited a reputable Pharmacy to price Items listed in your letter Ref No: GAD: 3/1/20 dated February 24th 2016. Of the 19 Items listed, I was told in the first instance, that some of them are gender specific in use by women, i.e. have to be carefully chosen to avoid rashes, allergies etc.

Secondly, some of the various brand names have fallen under the implementation of the new VAT system, a challenge to small funds. Please note carefully, MAVA W men will not continue the assumption that because women and men have suffered by past choices and now are required to live in more secured environments, they must take whatever they are provided with, irregardless of consequent rashes, allergies etc.

Some of us also feel that Shelters and Organisations which provide assistance to traumatized citizens should be VAT exempted in instances like these and in the payment of their utility bills, including the purchase of books and computers.

Additionally, we do not have any data on the size, age group and location of any Shelter in our respective residential locations and if there are men Shelters in use, since Domestic Violence occurs to both men and women.

The Police Statics have revealed that since 2005 to date, there has been 263 fatalities due to Domestic Violence, 155 were women and 112 men. We applaud your intention to commemorate this important day, but hope that you view our reservations in the spirit of Gender and Development progressing in the most equitable manner.

Most importantly, a policy has been implemented by ruling government to deduct 5% from all of its member's salaries, to be used in their Constituencies to do work like this. A glorious opportunity now exists to have available funds fully utilised.

As a consequence I have attached below our last Report to Parliament, which can be located in our archived documents at www.archive.org. Searching mavaw and donald berment. The details are as follows "in May of this year 2015, Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW) submitted a Report to the last Parliament Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Diversity, the Environment and Sustainable Development. The file was 21 plus Megabytes, 451 pages and difficult to transfer/receive by some important persons. Consequently, we archived it with our other work

at

<https://ia601508.us.archive.org/13/items/May2015ReportToParliamentJSCPart1/May%202015%20Report%20to%20Parliament%20JSC%20Part%201.pdf>

This 21 year plus dissemination of research via the vehicle of an NGO/non-profit company, MAVAW, is the product of research work done in the field of Developmental Architecture since 1970 and continuing, under the title "The Social Effects of and Construction Methods Employed in Community Lifestyles and Settlement Development aka Housing, Utilizing Modern Day Techniques, With an Accent on Tropical Architecture." Part 2 of this Report will provide other necessary information, including the conclusion and references/appendices. 451 pages is a lot to manage, but was absolutely needed for Parliament to understand MAVAW's responses to Domestic Violence in Trinidad and Tobago, at the Micro, Mezzo and Macro Levels, over our history and in relation to the discipline of Architecture. The work done by other members of MAVAW will be listed in Part 2 of the Report. Chief among them are Dr. Russell Foote, Dr. Robert Moultrie, Dr. Lennox Grant, Prof. George Gowrie and Dr. Niles. Their books are already in our National Library. The Gender Neutral Model to analyze Violence in Relationships aka. the BSD Syndrome and the Gender Equitable Model for the composition of Parliament aka. the 2013 Suggestions for Constitution Reform, two important reforms needed in the area of Gender and Development, are in the Part 1 along with our Revised Desktop Publication of our 2002 "Domestic Violence Awareness Handbook," still the only one in the Caribbean and our "Parenting Without Tears," i.e. bringing up children without Violence as a means of teaching discipline and other work.

*Signed***Donald Berment, Secretary/Counsellor.**

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